

In the claims:

- 1-13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously Presented) A fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle comprising a fluorescent organic dye covalently conjugated to an organo-silane compound, wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 200 nm.
15. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 100 nm.
16. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 50 nm.
17. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 30 nm.
18. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4.4 nm to about 34 nm.
19. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4.4 nm to about 30 nm.
20. (Previously Presented) A method of making a fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle comprising:

mixing a fluorescent organic dye and an organo-silane compound to form a dye precursor; and

co-condensing the resulting dye precursor with a silica to form a fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle.

21. (Previously Presented) A fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle made by the method of claim 20.

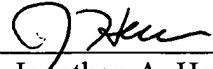
CONCLUSION

Given the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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